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### **IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS**

The Trade Commission will have an info booth at MEDIC (03-05 October) East Africa's largest professional exhibition on **medical equipment, products & services**. [www.medicestafrica.com](http://www.medicestafrica.com). An info booth allows Belgian companies to have their brochures in the segment exhibited free of charge.

An **information session for the upcoming business mission** to Uganda & Kenya will be organised on the **12 September in Brussels**. For invitations & details: Carol Mone [cmone@sprb.irisnet.be](mailto:cmone@sprb.irisnet.be)

The business mission to Uganda & Kenya will start on 27<sup>th</sup> of November and will focus on **Agro-food, Construction & Energy**. A short presentation of these 3 segments with the opportunities & challenges is available from the Trade Commission: [nairobi@belemb.eu](mailto:nairobi@belemb.eu)

The National Construction Authority of Kenya will support from the Big5 **construction expo** (01-03 November [www.thebig5constructeastfrica.com](http://www.thebig5constructeastfrica.com))

With the help of **Prof. Michael Dooms (VUB)** the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) will host the 26th International Association of Maritime Economists (IAME) Conference which will be held in Africa for the first time next year. <https://kpa.co.ke/Pages/Kenya-to-host-the-26th-IAME-Conference.aspx>

### **IN A GLANCE**

German **off-grid solar** firm Mobisol has secured 10 million euros (about Sh1.19 billion) from Finnfund to expand in East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda). Mobisol in March announced plans to open 20 more stores in Kenya with an eye on increasing rural market share in the country.

The **EU-AITF (EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund)** celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. It aims to promote investment in infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa through various forms of grants which are blended with long-term investments by selected development finance institutions.

### **ETHIOPIA**

**Ethiopian Airlines** inaugurated a modern Cargo Terminal II constructed at a cost of 10 million Euro. Inaugurating the facility, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalgen said the cargo terminal would boost Ethiopia's floriculture and horticulture exports.

**Ethiopia coffee exports** hit record highs. Ethiopia earned \$866 million exporting 221,000 tons of coffee during its last fiscal year.

### **KENYA**

The Guangdong New South Group Ltd has signed a \$1.94 Billion deal with the Kenyan government for the construction of an **industrial park** in Kenya at the Eldoret Special Economic Zone.

The **World health organization** WHO has picked Kenya as one of the African countries to host its centres for coordinating response to, and dealing with, medical emergencies.

Jack Ma, chairman of Chinese e-commerce Alibaba, will be on a two-day visit to Kenya. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**), will work with Mr Ma to explore opportunities with local businesses to participate in global trade.

Global ratings agency **Fitch Ratings** has affirmed Kenya's Issuer Default Ratings at 'B+' with a negative outlook, exposing the country's vulnerability to meet its financial commitments.

The European Union (EU) has injected Sh780 million (6.5million Euros) into farming aimed at **boosting cassava** growing in the country (The Standard)

The Abraaj Group, a Dubai-based private equity investment firm, has announced the acquisition of Kenya **Java House** restaurant chain from Emerging Capital Partners (ECP).

A recent survey showed that 95% of jobs created by Chinese firms in Kenya are part-time. Chinese companies now **control half of the countries' infrastructure projects**.

US officials announced that Kenya no longer faces possible loss of **Agoa trade benefits**. However, - Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda- must still undergo assessment of their Agoa eligibility status.

Hilton kicks off second Nairobi **high-end hotel**, located in what is billed to be Africa's tallest building. The Sh20.6 billion (\$200 million) project is a joint venture between Jabavu Village, the real estate investment arm of the Hass Petroleum Group, and Dubai-based investment firm White Lotus Group.

Kenya's **fresh produce exporters** have raised the alarm over the increased blockage of their goods in Europe due to quality concerns.

## ***RWANDA***

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An extra 1.5 million Rwandan homes will get **connected to electricity** before the end of 2018 under a new deal signed between government and the World Bank. The \$50 million project is under the Rwanda Renewable Energy Fund Project (REFP) and will increase access to electricity in rural areas.

Israeli Prime Minister welcomed Rwandan President Paul Kagame on an official visit to Israel. Netanyahu has increasingly showed interest in **Afro-Israeli trade** over the past year.

## ***TANZANIA***

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Tanzania's **mobile operator Tigo** has announced a USD 75 million investment to improve both network availability and quality across the country.

**Swissport Tanzania** announced that plans to invest Sh6.2 billion in equipment and training this year.

The Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) has introduced Agriculture Innovation Centre (AIC) to support and incubate **agro-enterprises** that have potential to grow with a focus on value addition.

The World Bank Said it had approved a \$345million loan for the expansion of **a port in** Tanzania's commercial capital Dar es Salaam, which the East African Country aims to turn into a regional gateway (Business Daily)